



FINDING AID

Fire Lookout Rephotography Project Papers 1935-1936, 2007

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HISTORY

The 2007 fire lookout rephotography project by Ian Grob of the U. S. Forest Service was designed to replicate photographs taken by forestry student Lester M. Moe in 1935 and 1936. The project allows the National Park Service and interested researchers to study numerous changes to the Yellowstone landscape, including the effects of fire management, timber encroachment and climate change. First proposed in the 1990s, some photos of Mount Washburn and Bunsen Peak were taken with color negative film (these photos appear not to be in this collection).

The photos by Moe (and now Grob) help to document the park from many of its high vantage points. An interesting part to this project is the story of the camera used by both Moe and Grob. Custom designed by William B. Osborne in 1931, the camera is believed to be one of only ten that were made by the Leupold-Volpel Company. Known as the Osborne photo-recording transit, the camera was built to take panoramic photos to track forest conditions and provide locations for fires. Osborne was also the inventor of the Osborne fire finder, a tool used in fire lookouts to find a directional bearing to smoke so as to alert crews to a fire. Both Moe and Grob used infrared film for their photos because it eliminates atmospheric haze.

Moe's panoramic photos have been used over the years by fire lookouts to coordinate reports of fires. Copies of the photos would be in the towers and used as common reference points. Overtime, as fire occurred and trees fell, the photos became less useful. Grob's photographs, taken at the same location with the same camera, help to document the changing landscape of Yellowstone.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

Fire Lookout Rephotography Project Papers 1935-1936, 2007

<i>CATALOG NUMBER</i>	YELL 128286
<i>VOLUME</i>	1 LF
<i>DESCRIPTION</i>	This collection contains original panoramic images taken in 1935 and 1936 and digital copies of images taken from same location using the same camera in 2007.
<i>ORGANIZATION</i>	Moe's panoramic photos for Bunsen Peak, Mount Holmes, Observation Peak, Purple Mountain, Mount Sheridan, Snake River Overlook and Mount Washburn are filed in the same box as the CD's which contain Ian Grob's 2007 photo replications from these same locations. Also contained in this box are Grob's photographic negatives and a folder containing general information about the project. A second box contains Moe's eight other panoramic prints. The panoramic prints are organized alphabetically in each box.
<i>PROVENANCE</i>	Transferred from the Technical Information Center in Denver in 2000.
<i>RESTRICTIONS</i>	NO
<i>ASSOCIATED MATERIALS</i>	Fire Management Records, 1919-Present, Yellowstone National Park Combined Archives

CONTAINER LIST

Box 1

File Unit Nbr	Title
01.01	General Information: Fire Lookout Rephotography Project, 1993-2007
01.02	2007 Bunsen Peak Negatives
01.03	2007 Mount Holmes Negatives
01.04	2007 Mount Sheridan Negatives
01.05	2007 Mount Washburn Negatives
01.06	2007 Observation Peak Negatives
01.07	2007 Purple Mountain Peak Negatives
01.08	2007 Snake River Negatives
01.09	1935 & 1936 Bunsen Peak Panoramic Photos
01.10	1935 Mount Holmes Panoramic Photos
01.11	1935 & 1936 Mount Sheridan Panoramic Photos
01.12	1935 Mount Washburn Panoramic Photos
01.13	1935 Observation Peak Panoramic Photos
01.14	1935 Purple Mountain Panoramic Photos
01.15	1935 Snake River Panoramic Photos

Box 2

02.01	1935 Bechler River Panoramic Photos
02.02	1935 Gallatin Panoramic Photos
02.03	1935 Mount Norris Panoramic Photos
02.04	1935 & 1936 Pelican Cone Panoramic Photos
02.05	1935 Pitchstone Plateau Panoramic Photos
02.06	1936 Saddle Mountain Panoramic Photos
02.07	1936 West Yellowstone Panoramic Photos